

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 02726 211844Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 EB-08 USIA-15
COME-00 TRSE-00 SP-02 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01
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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3318
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 3305
USDEL MTN GENEVA
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UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 02726

PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: EAGR,EEC
SUBJECT: GRAI BALANCES FOR 1976/77

REF: (A) TOFAS 66, (B) EC BRUSSELS 11854, (C) 76 TOFAS 348

1.WE HAVE OBTAINED THE LATEST SUPPLY AND DEMAND BALANCES DEVELOPED BY THE COMMISSION'S GRAIN DIVISION FOR THE 1976/77 CROP YEAR FOR SOFT WHEAT,BARLEY,CORN,DURUM WHEAT,SORGHUM, RYE AND OATS.THE COMPLETE BALANCES WERE TRANSMITTED BY TOFAS 66. SALIENT FEATURES OF THESE BALANCES ARE DISCUSSED BELOW.RANGES GIVEN ARE COMPOSED OF THE COMMISSION ESTIMATES (FIRST NUMBER) AND THE MEMBER STATES ESTIMATES (SECOND NUMBER). EARLIER COMMISSION ESTIMATES RE 1976/77 GRAIN BALANCES WERE REPORTED INF REFS.B AND C.

2.SOFT WHEAT.THE NEW ESTIMATES FOR SOFT WHEAT IMPORTS (3.6-3.9 MILLION TONS)ARE DOWN SUBSTANTIALLY FROM EARLIER ESTIMATES (4.5 -4.9 MILLIN TONS).ESTIMATES OF SOFT WHEAT
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PAGE 02 EC BRU 02726 211844Z

FEED USE AND EXPORTS ARE ALSO DOWN (BY ABOUT 0.8 AND 1.2 MILLIN TONS,RESPECTIVELY)FROM PREVIOHS ESTIMATES.COMMISSION OFFICIALS SAY THAT DOMESTIC WHEAT PRODUCTION WAS OF AN EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD QUALITY THIS YEAR AND THUS ITS USE BY THE DOMESTIC MILLING INDUSTRY HAS INCREASED MARKEDLY(REDUCINT THE NEED FOR IMPORT).ESTIMATES OF ENDING STOCKS HAVE BEEN RAISED TO 5.3 - 55.8 MILLION TONS.

3. CORN.THE ESTIMATE OF EC CORN IMPORTS HAS BEEN INCREASED
FRM THE ALREADY HIGH LEVEL OF ABOUT 18 MILLIN TONS TO 19.2
MILLIN TONS.MOST OF THIS INCREASED SUPPY IS ALLOCATED TO
FEED USE ALTHOUGH ENDING STOCKS ARE ALSO ESTIMATED AT HIGHER
LEVELS.

4.DURUM WHEAT.THE NEW ESTIMATES SHOW AN IMPROVEMENT IN
THE DURUM WHEAT SITUATION WHERE DIFFICULT DISPOSAL PROBLEMS
HAVE BEEN ENCOUNTEREDIN RECENT YEARS.THE ESTIMATE OF 1976/77
PRODUCTION HAS BEEN REDUCED BY A FURTHER 200,000 TONS TO 3.6
MILLIN TONS (AS COMPARED TO 4.3 MILLION TONS I 1975/76)
WHILE THE ESTIMATE OF IMPORTS HAS BEEN DROPPED FROM 0.9 TO
0.6 MILLION TONS.
HINTON

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